

## House Republican Press Release

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Press Office: 860-240-8700

### **Rep. Kalinowski Supports Anti-Litter Bottle Bill**



State Rep. Raymond C. Kalinowski, R-100<sup>th</sup>, Middletown, Middlefield, Durham, has announced his support for expanding the state's five-cent bottle deposit law to include the fast growing number of colorless water bottles that often end up by the side of the road.

Rep. Kalinowski said legislation has passed the state Senate and is now before the state House of Representatives in Hartford that would extend the 1979 law on carbonated beer and soda container redemption to include all water containers.

Rep. Kalinowski said bottled water consumption has doubled over the past decade to an estimated 22.6 gallons per person in 2003, the latest for which statistics are available. He said that adds up millions of water bottles disposed of throughout the Connecticut every year.

"Our area is keenly affected by the problem," said Rep. Kalinowski. "The number of water bottles discarded along our roads and highways is growing significantly. These bottles remain forever since they do not biodegrade over time."

"Much of the bottled water is consumed away from home, where there are few places for recycling," said Rep. Kalinowski. "Expanding the bottle deposit to water containers will provide incentives to save the bottles and return them to the stores."

Rep. Kalinowski noted that water distributors would provide store operators a two-cent handling fee on water bottles, the same as now provided on carbonated soft drink containers.

Rep. Kalinowski serves the 100<sup>th</sup> Assembly District of Middletown, Middlefield and Durham in the state House of Representatives.